

5. In Exodus 4:24-26 we read about Moses' mistake of putting off what God told him to do. It is comforting that Moses' mistakes are listed right along side the many right choices he made along the way. His mistakes are listed along with rest of the people of Scripture, because God knew we will sin as well.

After acknowledging our sin, it is important to remember God's incredible provision of gracious restoration through forgiveness. After his sin of procrastination related to circumcision, God restored Moses and loves to restore us as well. How do the following verses in the book of Isaiah help motivate us to be open and honest about our sins of commission or omission?

Isaiah 53:6  
Isaiah 59:1-3  
Isaiah 55:6-7

When we do sin, it is important to take steps so that we will be less likely to return to that sin. God has given us some spiritual practices that can help strengthen our lives so we can pursue righteousness more consistently. How do the following passages speak to this?

Psalms 119:9-11  
1 Corinthians 15:33  
Philippians 4:8  
2 Timothy 2:22

### WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last Sunday's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?

## First Things First

(Insights from Exodus 4:18-31)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 16th, 2016

### A passage most like to skip over ...

(Genesis 17:9-14, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### Three Truths From the Text:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God always begins with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

(1 Peter 4:15-17, Hebrews 12:4-11), 2 Chronicles 7:14)

2. Be careful that \_\_\_\_\_ don't become \_\_\_\_\_.

(Deut 30:5-6, Gal 1:6-7, 5:2-7, Rom 2:28-29, 1 Samuel 16:7)

3. Sin isn't just doing \_\_\_\_\_ but avoiding \_\_\_\_\_.

(Exodus 4:24-26, James 4:17)

### Four Opportunities to say Yes to God:

- **B ...**  
(Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 8:35-38, Acts 18:8)
- **C ...**  
(Proverbs 21:13, 1 John 3:17-18, Acts 20:35)
- **F ...**  
(Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12-13, Matthew 18:21-22)
- **S ...**  
(Haggai 1:6-7 Malachi 3:8-10, Prov 3:9-10, 2 Cor 9:6-7)

## **This Week's Discussion Guide:**

**Welcome to "Week 6" of this season of our small groups at GPC!** Our small groups are where folks move from 'believers' to 'belongers'. May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in the weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, study God's Word together and hopefully find other ways to connect outside of our group meetings. Our groups meet for nine months throughout the year. These nine months are broken up in three seasons or quarters. We meet from September - November, take December off, meet again from January - March, and then from April - June. After we take July and August off, we start it all over again :). This quarter our groups will meet for 10 weeks wrapping up the week of November 13th (the week before Thanksgiving week).

### **Getting Started:**

This past Sunday, Moses and his family had an "unexpected experience" while traveling from Midian to Egypt. While yours might not have been a God moment like theirs, in past travels, what unplanned experiences have you had that looking back are still memorable (for good or not so good)?

Moses had two sons. He named his first son Gershom because of a special meaning we looked at a few weeks back. Do you know why your parents gave you your name? Do you know what your name means? You might google it just for fun.

### **Digging Deeper:**

1. In Exodus 4, it seems Zipporah had a hard time being supportive of her second son being circumcised and since it wasn't the norm in Midian, Moses decided to put it off.

Back then and still today, there are truths and commands in the Bible that are not "culturally popular, politically correct or even make complete sense to us. When have you chosen to do what God wanted you to do when it didn't fit in with the normal flow of cultural behavior? What came of deciding to trust God and not culture or even your feelings?

2. The first of the three truths highlighted from last Sunday were, "God's judgment always begins with the people of God rather than those far from God." Read again the following verses Bob mentioned regarding this truth. (1 Peter 4:15-17, Hebrews 12:4-11 and also 2 Chronicles 7:14) Bob raised the question, "How much of the responsibility for the growing problems in our country is that the church has focused too much on the behavior of others and not themselves?" Do you agree or disagree? Does this thought or question raise any further observations or questions?

3. The second truth was to be careful that symbols (like circumcision) don't become stumbling blocks in our faith. Regarding circumcision, what was supposed to be a reminder of their inward commitment to God, sadly for many, turned into a replacement for their inward commitment. What traditions or activities are common today in church circles that we need to be careful why we still do them? What can help us maintain traditions and practices but not let them turn into more than what they were initially intended for?

4. The last truth brought up on Sunday was that sin isn't just doing the wrong things but avoiding the right things. Moses was avoiding a lot of wrong things (which was a good thing). In Exodus 4, his problem was not a sin of commission but of omission (not doing what God told him to do). Read James 4:17 and Romans 14:5-12. Based on Scripture, there are some things that are sins for all of us. But, there are also some things that God has called certain individuals to do or not do that is not the same list for everyone. Can you think of something God has called you to do or not do that he hasn't specifically commanded everyone to do?

The 'sins of commission' are usually given more attention to than the 'sins of omission'. Bob gave four areas that God says to take seriously and not avoid because of inconvenience or other circumstances. When God calls us to step out in obedience, it is to bless others and also to mature us. How has some 'stretching steps of obedience' helped you mature in your faith?